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apraxia. The contrary was true in this case. Dr. Laquer is inclined to look upon it here (though he admits that it may have been only an effect of the other disturbances) as the result of psychic blindness from the small lesion on the edge of the occipital lobe, and to find the reason for its early disappearance in the small size of that lesion.

*A case of thrombosis of the longitudinal sinus, together with the anterior frontal vein, causing localized foci of hæmorrhage, which produced remarkably localized cortical epilepsy.* VICTOR HORSLEY. *Brain*, April, 1888.

The progress of one of these fits is thus described: "The patient was lying on his back; first the head turned to the left, and he made a slight moaning noise; then the eyes turned upwards; he threw the left arm straight forwards, then upwards and outwards; the head then turned slightly to the right, and lastly both legs became convulsed, the mouth slightly open." In later ones, "extension of the wrist, with an interosseal position of the fingers," was noted. The autopsy showed lesions on the right hemisphere of the posterior one sixth of the middle frontal convolution and the edge of the superior, with congestion of the ascending convolution, especially in its adjacent edge and of the membranes of the superior frontal sulcus, and, on the left hemisphere, of a portion of the forward half of the middle third of the superior frontal convolution. And there was also on this side a general thin fibrinous exudation adhering to the dura mater. The case is interesting "in localizing the situation in man of Dr. Ferrier's area for the turning of the head and eyes to the opposite side, and at the same time the anterior limit of the upper limb area, together with the special representation of the segments of that limb at the anterior part of the region devoted to it."

*Essai historique et critique sur le délire des persécutions.* J. H. E. MANIÈRE. Inaug. dis., 1886.

This essay traces the resemblances of the possessions, sorceries, demonopathies, and psychic pestilences of the Middle Ages to the modern delirium of persecution, the sufferers from which fear poisoning or think themselves wrought upon by electricity, telephoning, etc. All are found to be alike in nature, but taking their special coloring from the knowledge and superstition of the times. In the same way the ideas of greatness that make the emperors, millionaires, and great personages of the asylums were paralleled in those days by the prophets, the Messiahs and the Beelzebubs. The author finds both the ideas of persecution and those of grandeur to be stages of chronic delirium, which, when it shows its full course, begins in a period of incubation, upon which follows the stage of persecution, then that of exaltation, and finally dementia. The logical transition from the second to the third stages is something like this: I am fearfully persecuted; but men of humble station are never persecuted; ergo I cannot be a man of humble station.

*On Arrested Cerebral Development.* B. SACHS. Reprint from *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, Vol. XIV, Sept. and Oct. 1887.

It is reasonable to suppose that arrested development should throw light upon normal function in much the same way as degenerations, but the brains of idiots have rarely been minutely studied

with this in view. Dr. Sachs contributes such a study of the brain of a child two years old. Besides simplicity of fissuration, etc., there were found, on microscopical examination, scarcely any pyramidal cells, either large or small, in normal condition. The author is of the opinion that the changes were those of simple arrested development, not those caused by inflammation. The cause of the arrest is not assigned, but the fact that the mother was thrown from a carriage during pregnancy, though she was uninjured, is not to be left out of consideration.

*Somnambules Zeichnen.* GUSTAV GESSMANN. Sphinx, August, 1888.

This paper, originally communicated to the *Psychologische Gesellschaft*, of Munich, presents the case of a somnambule artist and gives two reproductions of his work. The artist is a young man of the better class, and has frequently been observed, it is said, by noted physicians of Vienna and practiced observers who testify to the genuineness of his state while making the drawings. His glance at these times is peculiar; his right arm is stiff and cold and frequently convulsed as in cramp. This continues several minutes, when, suddenly snatching paper and pencil, he begins to draw. He generally makes heads or landscapes of a weird or mystical character. He draws rapidly, apparently not sketching an outline, but hatching the surface over with tangled zigzag lines in which the picture gradually takes form. A head which is reproduced, and by the way would answer well for Lear in the storm, was made in an hour and ten minutes of constant work. The other reproduction, of allegorical significance and hardly to be described, took three hours. In it there is certain lettering which can be made to spell out the stanza:

“Mensch lebe fromm,  
Es ist so Gottes Wille.  
Er lenket stets die Welt,  
Wenn auch in aller Stille.”

According to his own account this picture was produced under the influence of a dead painter named Seleny, who has also communicated to him at a later sitting much about its signification, which, however, would not be of interest without the picture. The editor of *Sphinx* notes the similarity to the paranoiac designs in the last number of this journal.

*Traumatic Insanities and Traumatic Recoveries.* SELDEN H. TALCOTT. Am. Jour. Insan., July, 1888.

This paper, which was among those read before the association of Asylum Superintendents, in May, gives two cases of insanity and two of recovery traumatically caused. The first case is interesting psychologically. A lad of eighteen fell twenty-six feet, striking the back of his head. He was unconscious for a few hours, but only in bed one day. He had dull pain for a time at the base of the brain and down his back; this, however, was gone at the time of his commitment to the asylum, and he seemed otherwise physically sound. In the six weeks previous, however, he had spoken only two or three words, though he could converse easily in writing. He wrote that all spoken words sounded to him like noise without meaning.